

**REMARKS**

Applicant gratefully appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 35. In this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claim 33, from which dependent claim 35 depended, to include the feature of allowable dependent claim 35 and cancelled claim 35. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 33 is now allowable. Applicant has further amended independent claim 33 to obviate the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Further in this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent method claim 26 to also include the features of dependent claim 35. Applicant has also amended independent claim 26 to obviate the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 26 is also allowable.

Applicant has also amended independent claim 31, directed to a gas turbine rotor, to also include the allowable structural features of dependent claim 35. Applicant respectfully submits that these structural features are not disclosed in the cited references and that, therefore, amended independent claim 31 is also allowable.

Lastly in this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled independent claim 16, and the claims that depended therefrom, and has amended the Abstract as required by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance with claims 26-28 and 30-33 being allowable.

If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned. If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any

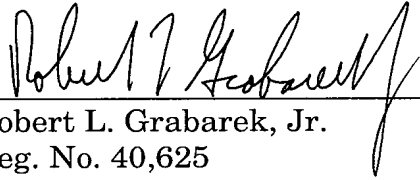
Appl. No. 10/567,518  
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Reply to Office Action of 11/06/2007

deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323  
(Docket No. 011235.57289US).

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

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By   
Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.  
Reg. No. 40,625  
Tel.: (949) 263-8400 (Pacific Coast)

Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, D.C. 20044-4300